

## ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for detecting microorganisms in a sample by means of a nucleic acid probe. Conventional detection methods are, for example, the in-situ hybridization of microorganisms with fluorescence-labeled oligonucleotide probes (fluorescent in-situ hybridization). A disadvantage of said method is that an epifluorescence microscope is required for evaluating the results. According to the invention, the disadvantages of the in-situ hybridization method are overcome by hybridizing the microorganisms to be detected in a sample with a specific nucleic acid probe, removing non-hybridized nucleic acid probe molecules, separating and then detecting and optionally quantifying the hybridized nucleic acid probe molecules.

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